

**Evaluation of HEFCW's first Third Mission Fund
Cycle 2004/05 to 2006/07**

			Disclosable
	Meeting 25/09/09	Agenda Item 20	Reference No HEFCW/09/80

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents for information the executive summary of the outcomes of an independent evaluation of the Council's first three year cycle of third mission (3M) funding, which covered the academic years 2004/05 to 2006/07.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 One of the strategic aims in the Council's current Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plan (http://intranet/corp_plan_3459.html) is to benefit economy and society through the delivery of more productive relationships between higher education institutions (HEIs) and the public and private sectors, other agencies and local communities. One of the means by which we facilitate this is via the operation of our 3M Fund, which was established in June 2004 following a widespread consultation exercise. The fund provides a dedicated stream of core funding in support of institutions' 3M activities, which the Council defines as those that "stimulate and direct the application and exploitation of knowledge to the benefit of the social, cultural and economic development of our society".
- 2.2 In order to inform the development of arrangements for future 3M funding cycles the Council needed to evaluate the impacts of its first 3M Fund cycle (2004/05 to 2006/07) and Circular **W07/18HE** published on 3 May 2007 announced that HEFCW would be commissioning an independent evaluation.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Receive the executive summary of the report produced by Innovas Consulting Ltd and the University of Salford on *HEFCW's Third Mission Fund Cycle 2004/05 to 2006/07* (**attached as Annex A**).

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 This paper is for information only. No decisions are required from Council arising from this report at present.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

Copies of the full report are available from Teresa Cooper (Tel 029 2068 2304; E-mail: Teresa.Cooper@hefcw.ac.uk).

7 Background

7.1 In July 2008 HEFCW invited open tenders for an evaluation of its Third Mission Fund 2004/05 to 2006/07 via the Buy4Wales website. The following statement of requirements was included in the specification document placed on the website:

- a) *Attend an initial meeting at the start of the contract to discuss requirements and finalise a date for submission of their final report following discussion of their findings with the Council's Third Mission Committee on 28 November 2008.*
- b) *Review all Third Mission Strategies submitted by HEIs at the outset of the 2004/05 to 2006/07 cycle and evaluate institutions' success or otherwise in implementing them.*
- c) *Review all Third Mission Strategies submitted by HEIs at the outset of the 2007/08 to 2009/10 cycle and evaluate the distance travelled since the preparation of their previous strategies.*
- d) *Evaluate the extent to which HEIs in Wales are reliant on and/or draw upon non-HEFCW sources of funding for the successful implementation of their third mission strategies.*
- e) *Assess the methodology employed by HEFCW in the allocation of its Third Mission Fund and make comparisons with the methods and levels of third mission funding of the other UK higher education funding bodies.*
- f) *Prepare a report that details all findings and which makes recommendations to HEFCW for potential future developments in this area.*

SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT HEFCW WOULD WISH TO SEE COVERED IN THE EVALUATION INCLUDE:

- *The extent to which HEIs in Wales are impacting on economic and social well-being locally, nationally and trans-nationally.*
- *How far this impact is being facilitated by HEFCW's Third Mission Fund.*
- *The level of HEFCW's Third Mission Fund in comparison with corresponding funding streams in other UK Higher education funding bodies.*
- *The success of Welsh HEIs in securing non-HEFCW sources of funding for third mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.*
- *The role of HEIs in contributing to the successful delivery of Welsh Assembly Government and Central Government policy imperatives.*
- *The extent to which the contribution of HEIs in Wales to economic and social well-being is currently recognised by stakeholders and the public at large.*

- *Potential barriers to enhancing still further the contribution of the HE sector to economic and social well-being in Wales and beyond.*

7.2 A contract to carry out the evaluation was awarded to Innovas Consulting Ltd working with the University of Salford.

8 Evaluation Outcomes

8.1 The Council is invited to receive for information an executive summary of the outcomes of the above evaluation by Innovas Consulting and the University of Salford (Annex A refers).

8.2 The Council is also asked to note that the evaluation will be used to inform the proposed consultation exercise in October/November 2009 on future 3M funding arrangements in Wales (**Council paper HEFCW/09/70 refers**).

8.3 The full evaluation report will be published on the Council's website alongside the executive summary presented with this paper. The full report will also be discussed at a future meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee.

9 Financial implications

9.1 No immediate financial implications arise from this paper although the findings of the study presented here may have an impact on future 3M funding arrangements in Wales. These will be explored in the proposed consultation exercise referred to at paragraph 8.2 above.

10 Communications implications

10.1 Publicity for the outcomes of this study will be discussed with the Council's Communications Manager prior to its placing on the website. Presentations on the findings will also be given to members of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee and to the Welsh Industrial Liaison Officers Network.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

11.1 When submitting their third mission strategies all institutions are asked to consider how they will address the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups (in relation to race, gender, disability and age, including monitoring arrangements). In addition, institutions are asked to consider the needs of Welsh speakers, Welsh learners and Welsh speaking communities and, where appropriate, take account of their institution's/institutions' role/roles in the new sector Welsh medium strategic framework and development plan.

11.2 The evaluation has highlighted no issues in this area.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Details of identified risks are as follows:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Council fails to deliver its strategic aim of “benefiting society and economy” as derived from its remit letter and <i>Reaching Higher</i>	RIE Committee established to offer Council advice and guidance on the development of policy in this area.
Council fails to provide adequate funding in support of HEIs’ 3M activities	Regular reviews of 3M funding arrangements, involving consultation with the sector and key stakeholders.